

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 107975

FOL REPEAT STATE 107975 SENT ACTION BONN LONDON MADRID

PARIS INFO EC BRUSSELS MAY 08

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S E C R E T STATE 107975

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, UK, FR, GW

SUBJECT: EFFORTS OF JUNTA DEMOCRATICA TO PROMOTE CONTACTS
WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

1. FOR BONN, PARIS AND USEC: INFORMATION IN PARAS 3 AND
4 BELOW PROVIDED FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY AND SHOULD BE
HANDLED AS NO FOREIGN DISSEM.
2. FOR MADRID AND LONDON: YOU MAY DRAW ON INFORMATION
IN PARAS 3 AND 4 BELOW AS APPROPRIATE IF SUBJECT ARISES
IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS.
3. FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON
TO DEPT: FCO OFFICE FOR SOUTHWESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS WAS
APPROACHED AT BEGINNING OF MAY BY A BRITISH JOURNALIST
(LEO MURRAY - LIVERPOOL DAILY POST) WHO REQUESTED THAT FCO
MINISTERS MEET WITH A GROUP OF LEADERS OF JUNTA DEMOCRATICA

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IN MID-MAY. THE JOURNALIST SAID THE GROUP WOULD BE IN

LONDON FOR MEETINGS WITH BRITISH NEWSMEN. HE CLAIMED THEY HAD HAD PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH PONIATOWSKI IN PARIS AND GENSCHER IN BONN. HE ALSO SAID THAT JUNTA LEADERS APPEARED CERTAIN THAT EFFECTIVE ACTION TO OUST FRANCO WOULD BE TAKEN IN MATTER OF WEEKS AND THAT JUNTA, WITH "200,000 MEN READY TO FIGHT", HOPED TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN OR BEHIND THE SUCCESSOR REGIME.

4. UK FOREIGN OFKICE REPORTED THIS APPROACH TO PARIS, BONN AND MADRID EMBASSIES, EACH OF WHICH REPORTED IN TURN. BONN AND PARIS SAID THEY HAD CHECKED OUT STORIES OF JUNTA CONTACTS WITH FRENCH AND GERMAN LEADERS AND HAD RECEIVED DENIALS THAT SUCH HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS HAD TAKEN PLACE. UK EMBASSY MADRID REPORTED ON BACKGROUND AND CURRENT PROSPECTS OF JUNTA AND CAUTIONED FOREIGN OFFICE AGAINST HIGH-LEVEL BRITISH CONTACTS WITH JUNTA LEADERS. UK EMBASSY MADRID ALSO PROVIDED INTERESTING ASSESSMENT OF JUNTA WHICH TALLIES CLOSELY WITH DEPT. VIEWS.

5. FOR BACKGROUND OF ALL ADDRESSEES, DEPT VIEWS JUNTA DEMOCRATICA IS SIMPLY VEHICLE FOR LONGSTANDING COMMUNIST AMBITION TO DOMINATE SPANISH OPPOSITION POLITICS. WHILE NATURE OF POST-FRANCO LEADERSHIP NOT FULLY CLEAR, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT JUNTA AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE, AND WE HOPE THAT DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WILL BE ABLE TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS WITHOUT BENEFIT OF COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP OR GUIDANCE.

6. USG HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID MEETINGS OR OTHER GESTURES WHICH MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED AS SIGN OF US ACCEPTANCE OF JUNTA AS MAJOR OPPOSITION FORCE OR AS LEGITIMATE CONTENDER IN POS-FRANCO ERA. FOR EXAMPLE, DEPT REFUSED REQUESTS FOR POLICY-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH FORMER MONARCHIST RAFAEL CALVO SERER (WHO BILLS HIMSELF AS CO-LEADER OF JUNTA) WHEN HE VISITED WASHINGTON RECENTLY. ON OTHER HAND, US EMBASSY MADRID NATURALLY KEEPING LINES OPEN TO ALL SIGNIFICANT SECTORS OF DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION. QE ASSUME OTHER
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WESTERN GOVERNMENTS ARE ALSO GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO NATURE AND EXTENT OF CONTACTS WITH SPANISH OPPOSITION GROUPS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT MOST INFLUENTIAL NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION GROUPS (PSOE SOCIALISTS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS) HAVE STAYED OUT OF JUNTA DEMOCRATICA.

7. EMBASSY MADRID MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON ABOVE,

ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO GROUP PLANNING TO VISIT
LONDON OR PREVIOUS JUNTA EFFORTS TO MAKE CONTACTS
WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. ALSO, RE YOUR REQUEST
PARA 6 OF MADRID 3014, WE PROVIDED SENATOR KENNEDY'S
OFFICE ON MAY 6 WITH APPROPRIATE INFO ON PSP AND JUNTA,
IN ORDER TO PREPARE THEM FOR POSSIBLE APPROACH BY PSP
LEADER. KISSINGER

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